

International Agribusiness Center

Weekly Country Report, October 19-23, 2020

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USDA/Global Agricultural Information Network Reports

Brazil Eliminates Soybean and Corn Import Duties - [link](#)

On October 16, Brazil announced that it would suspend the import tariffs on corn, soybeans, soy meal, and soy oil from countries outside the Mercosur trade bloc. The tariff on corn and soy imports from outside Mercosur is currently eight percent, six percent for soy meal, and 10 percent for soy oil. Post anticipates that the decision will be published in the Brazilian Federal Register in the next couple of days and will come into force the same day. The import tariff waiver will apply to soybean and soy products until January 15, 2021, and for corn imports until March 31, 2021. The waiver will apply to all incoming imports with no quota. Post sees several hurdles to substantial imports from the United States due to current price spreads and several regulatory and logistical challenges.

Croatia – Exporter Guide - [link](#)

Croatia imports a significant portion of food to meet domestic demand. Continuing economic reforms, as a result of EU accession, and growing tourism make Croatia a potential market for certain U.S. food products, such as snack foods, fish products, pet food, wine, and tree nuts. The COVID-19 pandemic will have a short-term negative impact on all economic indicators, but they are expected to rebound when the pandemic is manageable. This report's statistical data were updated in September 2020.

Vietnam - Food Service - Hotel Restaurant Institutional - [link](#)

The report provides the latest update regarding developments in the Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional (HRI) food service sector in Vietnam and suggests a road map for exporters wishing to enter the market. Vietnam's HRI market continued to grow in 2019, in step with the country's strong economic performance, growing middle class, and expanding tourism sector. COVID-19 has negatively affected the HRI sector across the globe in 2020; however, Post expects that the HRI sector in Vietnam will strongly rebound over the next few years, cementing the country as an attractive export market for U.S. consumer-oriented and agricultural related products.

EU Commission Presents its 2021 Work Program - [link](#)

On October 20, 2020, the European Commission adopted its 2021 Work Program setting out the actions the Commission aims to take in 2021. The Work Program lists new policy objectives under the Green Deal, the Farm to Fork Strategy and the Biodiversity Strategy such as the action plan on organic production and the proposal on deforestation-free supply chains.

EU Adopts Its Methane Strategy - [link](#)

On October 14, the European Commission presented its EU Methane Strategy, in which the main objective is to reduce methane emissions by 35 to 37 percent by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. In the agriculture sector, the Commission wants to improve the reporting of emissions. It also wants to boost the production of biogas from



non-recyclable agricultural waste. The Commission will also propose a revision of the Feed Additives Regulation to reduce the environmental impact of livestock farming by the end of 2021.

Peru - Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Country Report - [link](#)

This report outlines Peru's regulatory requirements for food and agricultural product imports and updates and replaces the 2019 report. As of September 30, 2020, agricultural imports into Peru continue without significant issues, although the severe COVID-19 outbreak has and will continue negatively affecting Peru's economy. In recent months, the Government of Peru has taken action to facilitate imports by continuing to allow the use of stickers to comply with front of package labeling requirements for another year and implementing a one-year pilot project to encourage imports of seafood for processing.

United Arab Emirates - Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Export Certificate Report - [link](#)

This report identifies certificate requirements for U.S. food and agricultural products destined for the United Arab Emirates. The report includes updates to six certificates: 1) Live Cattle; 2) Shell Eggs for Human Consumption; 3) Egg Products (Processed Eggs); 4) Egg Products (Further Processed Egg Products & Composite Foods Containing Egg Products); 5) Live Horses; and, 6) Bovine Semen. This report is to be used in conjunction with the 2020 Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) Country Report for the United Arab Emirates.

Food Processing Magazine

Tyson Publishes Report From Expert Panel on COVID - [link](#)

Tyson Foods published a 10-page report on October 20 on how workplaces can deal with COVID-19, keeping employees safe and maintaining a reliable food supply. It's the result of a scientific working group Tyson convened in August "to examine what we have learned about this powerful disease." "Tyson believes it is equally critical to share what it has learned and continue to support the collective growth in understanding of how to manage and ultimately defeat this deadly threat." Read more to understand some of those learnings.

UK Food Industry Nervous About Brexit - [link](#)

The United Kingdom seems increasingly unlikely to reach a trade agreement with the European Union by the end of the year, and the food industry is warning of higher prices and shorter supplies. The UK reaffirmed Brexit, its decision to leave the EU, with the 2019 election of Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who ran on a platform of "make Brexit happen." Since then, trade relations between the UK and EU have been governed by a trade agreement, mostly along the lines of the status quo, that is due to expire at the end of the year. Helen Dickinson, CEO of the British Retail Consortium, estimated that consumers will have to pay £3 billion (about \$3.9 billion) in tariffs. "Government must do what is necessary to agree a zero-tariff agreement, or else it will be the public that pay the price," she told The Grocer, a British trade journal.

Specialty Food Magazine

Whole Foods Reveals Trend Predictions - [link](#)

The sixth annual trends list was compiled by a team of 50 Whole Foods employees, including local foragers, regional and global buyers and culinary experts. This year's list takes into account how both the industry and consumers have been struggling with the pandemic.

Disclaimer: This list is by no means complete, for more information please refer to the links above.

Country reports were started in March 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

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